

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3827

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide for the establishment of a Women in Enterprise Development Program to support the economic empowerment of women in developing countries.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 1996

Ms. WATERS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide for the establishment of a Women in Enterprise Development Program to support the economic empowerment of women in developing countries.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Women in Enterprise
5 Development Act of 1996”.

1 **SEC. 2. WOMEN IN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT.**

2 Chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act
3 of 1961 is amended by inserting after section 113 the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 114. WOMEN IN ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—In carrying
7 out this part, the Administrator of the Agency for Inter-
8 national Development shall establish and implement a
9 Women in Enterprise Development Program.

10 “(b) DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM.—This program
11 shall provide funding and other support for projects hav-
12 ing the following 3 interrelated components:

13 “(1) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The provision of
14 financial assistance to women—

15 “(A) to support the creation of small to
16 medium-size businesses in which women can
17 readily participate;

18 “(B) to foster investment in businesses
19 substantially owned or managed by women; and

20 “(C) to enable such women to further their
21 education.

22 “(2) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.—The provi-
23 sion of assistance to encourage and support efforts
24 of indigenous educational institutions, and where ap-
25 propriate other organizations—

1 “(A) to encourage women to participate in
2 the processes of local and national government,
3 and to stimulate the interest of women in busi-
4 ness;

5 “(B) to prepare women for involvement in
6 government and business;

7 “(C) to provide opportunities for women to
8 gain practical experience in government and
9 business through internships or on-the-job ap-
10 prenticeships while in school;

11 “(D) to provide women with remedial as-
12 sistance whenever necessary; and

13 “(E) to identify women with leadership po-
14 tential to serve as role models, and to assist
15 such women in furthering their education and
16 obtaining suitable positions in the public or pri-
17 vate sector.

18 Assistance under this paragraph shall encourage the
19 development and implementation of guidelines to be
20 used by secondary and postsecondary education in-
21 stitutions to achieve the objectives described in sub-
22 paragraphs (A) through (E) through the develop-
23 ment of appropriate curricula and other means.

24 “(3) INFORMATION ASSISTANCE.—The provi-
25 sion of assistance to support the creation or expan-

1 sion of local resource centers which offer to women
2 interested in careers in business, government, or re-
3 lated fields—

4 “(A) courses in accounting, bookkeeping,
5 and elementary marketing practices, and other
6 courses; and

7 “(B) workshops, informational materials,
8 career counseling, and assistance in the local
9 community.

10 “(c) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FINANCIAL ASSIST-
11 ANCE.—The Administrator of the Agency for Inter-
12 national Development shall develop criteria for identifying
13 the women who are eligible to receive financial assistance
14 under subsection (b)(1).

15 “(d) INITIAL FUNDING LEVEL.—The Congress urges
16 the Administrator of the Agency for International Devel-
17 opment, in carrying out this section during fiscal year
18 1997, to use not less than an amount equal to 10 percent
19 of the amount made available under this part for assist-
20 ance for micro-enterprise development.

21 “(e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The annual congressional
22 presentation materials on economic assistance shall in-
23 clude a description of the assistance being provided under
24 this section, including the amount that was provided for
25 such assistance during preceding fiscal year, the amount

- 1 estimated to be provided during the current fiscal year,
- 2 and the amount proposed for the coming fiscal year.”.

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